

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A digital video recording and playback method adapted for "live-pause" recording and playback, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:
 - a) providing at least one receiving a first electronic audio-visual program source;
 - b) via receiving a program guide source, at least providing comprising program length information about ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest~~;
 - c) converting said program length information into a corresponding buffer memory size;
 - d) establishing a buffer memory matching the buffer memory size determined in ~~step c~~; and
 - e) recording ~~a selected~~ the first program in the buffer memory established in ~~step d~~; wherein said buffer memory size matches the size needed to record ~~said~~ the first program ~~of interest~~; and
 - f) playing back a portion of the recorded first program during a "live-pause" operation.
2. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, wherein said program length information comprises the scheduled end time of ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest~~.
3. (Currently Amended) The method in claim 1, wherein said program length information comprises the scheduled start time of ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest~~.

4. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
at the direction of a user, designating ~~a~~ the first program stored in said buffer memory for long-term storage.
5. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, wherein ~~for programs if the first program is~~ of indefinite length, said program length information comprises as a default, a fixed length.
6. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a-current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, ~~when after~~ the current first program has been recorded.
7. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a-current~~ the first program, and
making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user tunes in to another program.
8. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a-current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if

needed, when a user directs that recording be halted.

9. (Currently amended) A digital video recording and playback system adapted for "live-pause" recording and playback, said system comprising:

- a) at least one electronic audio-visual a tuner that receives a first program source;
- b) and a program guide source adapted to at least provide comprising program length information about a the first program of interest;
- c) a converter adapted to convert said program length information into a corresponding buffer memory size; and

d) at least one buffer memory established and sized to match that determined by said converter, said buffer memory being adapted to record a selected the first program; wherein said buffer memory size matches the size needed to record a the first program of interest; and

a display that displays a portion of the recorded first program during a "live-pause" operation.

10. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said program length information comprises the a scheduled end time of a the first program of interest.

11. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said program length information comprises the a scheduled start time of a the first program of interest.

12. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory

is adapted to become, at the direction of a user, part of a long-term memory for the long-term storage of a the first program stored therein.

13. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein ~~for programs if the first program is~~ of indefinite length, said program length information comprises as a default, a fixed length.

14. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory is adapted to be released from recording ~~a-current the first~~ program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when the ~~current first~~ program has been recorded.

15. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory is adapted to be released from recording ~~a-current the first~~ program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user tunes in to another program.

16. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory is adapted to be released from recording ~~a-current the first~~ program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user directs that the recording of the first program to be halted.

17. (Currently amended) A digital video recording and playback method adapted for "live-pause" recording and playback, said method comprising the steps of:
- a) providing at least one electronic audio visual receiving a first program source;
 - b) adaptively establishing a buffer memory having a size adequate to record a the first program of interest; and
 - c) recording a selected the first program in the buffer memory established in step b); and
 - d) playing back a portion of the recorded first program during a "live-pause" operation.

18. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, wherein the size of said buffer memory is set to one of a plurality of fixed sizes to match an estimated size of a the first program of interest.

19. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising the step of:
at the direction of a user, designating a the first program stored in said buffer memory for long-term storage.

20. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising the step of:
releasing said established buffer memory from recording a current the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when the current first program has been recorded.

21. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first
program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if
needed, when a user tunes in to another program.

22. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first
program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if
needed, when a user directs that recording of the first program be halted.

23-28. (Cancelled)